

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03090 190935Z

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 CPR-01 MMO-04 USIA-15 /041 W
----- 059750

R 190640Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5706

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 3090

L/EB FOR TRIMBLE, NEA/INS FOR TELEEN

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL EVEREST EXPEDITION

1. CHENEY, FISCHER AND PASANG KAMI WENT THROUGH EQUIPMENT LIST OVER WEEKEND AND IN GENERAL REVIEWED PLANS IN PREPARATION FOR SENDING FIRST 200 PORTER LOADS FROM KATHMANDU JULY 24. THEY WISA TO POINT OUT THE FOLLOWING AND REQUEST YOUR VIEWS SOONEST, IF POSSIBLE BY COB JULY 20.

2. APPROACH MARCH. ALTHOUGH EXPEDITION HAS ENOUGH TENTS FOR PARTY OF 29 TO WALK TOGETHER TO BASE CAMP, WHAT WILL FRIENDS USE FOR RETURN TO LUKIA AND/OR KATHMANDU? IN ADDITION EXPEDITION EXPECTED TO PROVIDE SHELTER FOR 10-12 SHERPAS WHO WILL ACCOMPANY. ARE THERE SUFFICIENT SLEEPING BAGS FOR FREINDS? EACH PORTER LOAD MUST BE PROTECTED FROM RAIN BY PLASTIC SHEET, SINCE BOXES WOULD RAPIDLY DETERIORATE IF WET. CAN WE USE PLASTIC TUBE WHICH WAS SHIPPED WITH EXPEDITION STORES? IF NOT WE WILL PURCHASE LOCALLY. GROUND SHEETS SENT ARE INADEQUATE, AND THREE OR FOUR LARGE TARPAULINS WILL BE REQUIRED. CAN YOU BRING OR SHOULD WE PURCHASE LOCALLY? WE NOTE THE ABSENCE OF A KITCHEN TENT AND MESS TENT FOR APPROACH MARCH. MEMBERS AND FRIENDS COULD EAT IN CAFETERIA STYLE ON MARCH, BUT SOME SORT OF LARGE TENT IS REQUIRED FOR KITCHEN, NOT ONLY ON APPROACH BUT IN BASE CAMP AS WELL. CHENEY'S SHERPA TENTS ARE NOT POSSIBLE FOR APPROACH MARCH (TOO HEAVY AND TOO BIG). WE CAN TRY TO PURCHASE LOCALLY IF AUTHORIZED. HAS EXPEDITION BROUGHT
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 03090 190935Z

KITCHEN AND MESS GEAR FOR THEMSELVES AND FRIENDS? IF NOT,

WE MUST PURCHASE LOCALLY. TOTAL REQUIRED IS APPROXIMATELY 50 SETS (26 SHERPAS AND 29. MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AT BASE CAMP).

3. BASE CAMP. WE HAVE FOUR OXYGEN SETS IN HAND AND AN ADDITIONAL SIX IN LUKLA. HOW MANY MASKS AND REGULATORS ARE TO BE SHIPPED? IS EXPEDITION BRINGING COOKING AND MESS GEAR FOR HIGH ALTITUDE CAMPS SUCH AS NESTING BILLIES? NOT ON EQUIPMENT LIST. 40 HEAD LAMPS LISTED ARE NOT SUFFICIENT. EXPEDITION SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SHIP AT LEAST 20 ADDITIONAL, AS WELL AS EXTRA ALKALINE BATTERIES. HAS EXPEDITION SHIPPED FOLDING TABLES AND STOOLS? AT LEAST TWO TABLES WILL BE REQUIRED ON APPROACH MARCH AND IN BASE CAMP. CAN BE PURCHASED LOCALLY IF NECESSARY. HAS EXPEDITION SHIPPED SCALES? THESE ARE MANDATORY AT BASE CAMP TO MEDIATE DISPUTES OVER ICEFALL LOADS. CAN BE PURCHASED LOCALLY. IS EXPEDITION BRINGING LANTERNS OR DO YOU WISH TO PURCHASE KEROSENE LANTERNS LOCALLY?

4. DOES CBS TEAM REQUIRE MAIL RUNNERS? ASSUME EXPEDITION WILL WANT AT LEAST TWO TO RUN BETWEEN BASE CAMP AND NAMCHE TO PROVIDE BACKUP TO RADIO AND TO ACQUIRE SUPPLIES IF NECESSARY. CHENEY NOW PLANS TO OUTFIT BASE CAMP STAFF AND ICEFALL PORTERS LOCALLY. ESTIMATED COST IS APPROXIMATELY \$300 PER MAN FOR TOTAL OF \$2000, SHOULD INSURANCE BE PURCHASED LOCALLY FOR THOSE REQUIRING COVERAGE ACCORDING TO REGULATIONS? APPROXIMATE COST WILL BE \$8000-9000. CHENEY ESTIMATES PORTER COSTS TO BASE CAMP AND RETURN TO LUKLA WILL RUN ABOUT \$20,000. TRUST THAT BUDGET ALLOWS ABOVE EXPENDITURES. ON BRIGHTER SIDE ALL GOODS HAVE BEEN CLEARED THROUGH CUSTOMS AND ALL BILLS PAID. \$11,800 FOR AIR FREIGHT FROM BANGKOK AND APPROXIMATELY \$3000 FOR DUTIES AND TAXES, FAR LESS THAN WE ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED. WE WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE MORE FUNDS EARLY NEXT WEEK.

5. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST ON QUESTIONS RAISED ABOVE, SINCE LOCAL PURCHASES MUST BE UNDERTAKEN THIS WEEK IN ADVANCE OF TEAM'S ARRIVAL. ADVISE ARRIVAL TIMES FOR MORGAN AND CHANDLER. ALL MEMBERS SHOULD BRING TWO BOTTLES WHISKEY AND PERSONAL CIGARETTES WITH THEM SINCE LOCAL PRICES ARE PROHIBITIVE.

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PAGE 03 KATHMA 03090 190935Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KATHMA03090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760277-0015
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760745/aaaabnip.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL EVEREST EXPEDITION
TAGS: CASC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006